

# INTERNATIONAL ROAD BUILDING

## Construct an International Highway from the Atlantic To the Pacific—Build Laterals to It

If some congressman or United States Senator desires to become one of the most noted men in the world, and will advocate a national highway from the Atlantic to the Pacific and set in motion in Congress the wheels of the machinery to put it into operation, he will become a national and international figure as great as the world has produced.

We all talk about and boost for good roads but the most of our energies are spent on the duster air—and the most of the money contributed to good roads is wasted because the manner in which it is spent causes additional expenditures yearly in order to keep the roads up. This same condition applies to street improvement. The writer maintains that no permanent good roads can be built by using dirt alone. Neither can a street. Therefore, this system of road or street building is wrong because the next year the work is to be done over again.

Chat cannot be used alone in the building of a road or in its repair, any more than dirt can, and in fact not so well, because its looseness will not pack and the chuck hole is soon to be repaired again.

Whenever the government of the United States will undertake the building of an international highway from the Atlantic to the Pacific and create a new arm of the government to handle this stupendous proposition, the country will find itself bordering onto the first feasible plan to obtain good roads that will put an end to the wasteful system of today.

But one says, why from the Atlantic to the Pacific? Why not from the Great Lakes on the north to the Gulf on the south? Both propositions are correct.

And this is not all. Lateral roads could reach out through each state to meet the two great central thoroughfares and in time when the network of hard surfaced roads were completed, the United States would be secure from a foreign war for a hundred years. How long would it take to assemble an army under these conditions?

One other fact is very forceful in the construction of an international highway system of good roads, and that is the automobile in relation to the railroads as a common carrier.

The automobile has come to stay while the railroads are on the wane—a thing of the past when one views the future from a reconstruction point of view.

The auto barn now is the depot for the auto which takes on its heavy burdens and transports them to market at a nominal cost. With a network of hard surfaced roads throughout every county and township in the United States, there would be but little use for railroads as common carriers.

We started out by saying that the good roads question was the greatest question in the United States today, and have only partially stated why. To complete this argument, the United States as a people are bending every energy to start the wheels of industry, start the construction of buildings, start the good roads movement. In every mart of trade, officials and the different business organizations throughout the country are bending every energy to assist the unemployed to get back to work.

This gigantic international road theme, entirely practicable, would solve the problem and put every idle man in the United States to work and keep him there for a number of years. "But," you say, "an international highway is feasible, all right, but—but I don't think it can be accomplished because of the great cost."

The writer has brought this question out for the purpose of answering it, as it is the only question that could possibly be brought to bear against the international road plan.

The United States undertook a tremendous job once and completed it (thanks to the late Colonel Roosevelt) which stands out today as the greatest of all world accomplishments, the successful building of the Panama Canal. This great inter-ocean waterway was completed at the staggering cost of four hundred million dollars.

Does any citizen of the United States feel and know that he contributed the price of a one-cent postage stamp to this colossal undertaking? Does he?

Your answer must be in the negative reply, and this being true, all obstructiveness to the international road plan must fall of its own weight.

To one who has been a student and close observer of the building of roads throughout Missouri, Kansas and Okla-

homa, he knows that in all these states millions of dollars have been and are still being squandered under the present system of dirt road building, only to be duplicated year in and year out. This statement also applies to street work in cities and towns. To prove this contention, one need not go away from Baxter, but using an outside city as a guide to clinch this statement, we cite that the city of Carthage pays out \$10,000 per year to "maintain" her dirt or chat roads, and yet her streets from one end to the other are full of "chuck" holes.

With this vision as the proper conception of road and street building and the greatest of all reconstruction themes to place this country on a footing of indestructible industrial prosperity, and at the same time serve notice to the world that we are prepared for any invasion for a century to come, we pass from the "rat hole" into which road money is now dumped and re-dumped and live in an age when we can see the United States girdled with hard surfaced roads.

Oh, for a Goethal road builder.

Cecil Love celebrated his seventh birthday at the Love home Monday. A jolly group of little young acquaintances were there, consisting of the following: Isabel Hibbs, Billy Hibbs, Cecil Love, Hazel Love, Tom Hoskins, Wesley Goodwin, Ada Clark, Lara May Clark, Emily Grace Cooper, Johnnie Cooper, William Weber, Marguerite Win, Jesse Goodwin, Sheldon Bennett and Junior Kirkendall.

## BAXTER WOMAN'S CLUB SCORES SUCCESS WITH ST. PATRICK'S BALL

The masquerade ball given under the patronage of the Baxter Woman's Club in the Goodeagle hall Mon. night was carried out with all the success that its sponsors had hoped for.

The motive of the ball, as advertised, was to raise funds to start the work of beautifying the Library Park, an object very necessary to the attractiveness of our little city.

The spirit of co-operation in a common interest for the advancement of community enterprises for the betterment of the town which is a dominant factor in this Club seemed to prevail. The crowd had caught this spirit and carried the affair along with the good fellowship and dash which made of it a community gathering.

There were about 300 people attending. The neighboring towns of Missouri and Oklahoma and nearby Kansas towns were well represented.

Many tickets were purchased by persons who could not attend but were glad to help swell the funds to be used in a cause of common interest to the town.

Most everyone came masqued. Among the varied costumes were some very beautiful, others noted for their historical significance, while a great number were amusing or grotesque. Many ladies and men were in full evening attire, making a pleasing contrast to those in masquerade.

When moneys are all in and expenses taken care of, the amount realized will be published as the club feels this will be of general interest.

## Masquerade Notes

Enough sailors were present to man a dreadnaught.

Refreshments were served by girls in very bewitching costumes.

The coffee and wafers were furnished by Mr. Briscoe, of the Sanitary Grocery.

E. H. Schloeman supplied the meat for the sandwiches and they were sure good. Punch also was served.

The music was of the very best, furnished by a six-piece orchestra. The hall was nicely decorated in St. Patrick's novelties.

## E. A. MAPES DEAD

Ellsworth A. Mapes died very suddenly at the National Military Home of Kansas last Monday night. Mr. Mapes went there the fore part of December to be treated for an infection of his eyes, being troubled with cataracts. He improved after the treatment given him there, and was expected home the latter part of this week.

As we go to press the funeral arrangements have not been completed, as it is not known when some of the relatives will arrive here.

The remains will be accompanied to this city by Ellsworth, the younger son.

Of course, the trolley line franchise calls for the upkeep of the track bed a certain distance from either rail, or at least it should, but the company has an excellent excuse now from repairs because the remainder of the street is full of the same kind of chuck holes. Yet, can the company rest its interests in this light?

The Topeka Daily Capital has been designated by the New York Globe to take the vote in Kansas for and against a League of Nations to preserve peace. When the vote is in the Capital will send the vote to the Globe.

## THRU THE WINDOW

By J. W. K.

Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of general health conditions and sanitation by cleaning-up the back yard.

We are taking a dose of our own medicine and there is one back yard that is being cleaned up and the old barn painted. Friend wife will have nothing to do next week but clean house, plant the garden, attend three club-meals and keep the house work going; in fact we are about out of spring work already.

Any town with a creek running through it with a name like Shunganunga ought to be over-flowed.

When asked what the political situation was over in his ward, S. Hope Sudds, the local tonsorial artist, said that all sectors were comparatively quiet; outside of a few socialists going over occasionally there was no gun fire.

What troubles old Jerry Sniffles most is that he can't get anyone to talk politics. Jerry can't understand that "politics is adjourned," as Woody said.

Yep, March stands redeemed; got in a little late but with a few scattered cyclones to her credit the windy old month still holds the belt.

When the day comes that foam blowers union can no longer make expenses, we hope to be able to own a pop stand near a Joplin baseball diamond.

The outlook is brighter. Our wife's rich uncle, Dug (that's how he got it) has bought a fish farm down on Spring river and is building a battleship to use against the fresh water sharks; if we can maneuver the new craft right we may be able to be its pilot when the obsequies are said.

What's to become of a poor paragrapher when the day starts at 8 a. m. and you have to knock off at 5 in order to quit at six?

## What's In a Name?

Speaking of fruit,  
We have Apples and Berries;  
Of good things to eat,  
The Plums and the Cherries.  
Casting about for the colors in town,  
The Blacks and the Whites,  
The Greens and the Browns.  
And taking a census of "length" to report,  
We have Mr. High, Mr. Long, Mr. Short.

We are Able to say with Aul servers of old,  
We'll hustle the Cook if you hustle the Cole.

We Hope for the Day, when the Birds are all Cranes,  
The doctors all Cannons and kill all the Paines.

I will give you a Nichol to Shield me this time;  
This bloomin' typewriter refuses to rhyme.

## WHEAT IN KANSAS

According to reports of the Secretary of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, the record of 55 wheat crops—1862 to 1916—show that the average yield per acre of all winter wheat harvested, was 12.72 bu. The average price per bushel was 72 cents. The value of one acre was \$9.29.

From 1892 to 1908, the average yield was 11.18 bu. The average price for these 12 years was 54 cents per bushel. The acre value was \$6.38.

During the years 1904 to 1916, winter wheat averaged 13.46 bu. The average price was 83.6 cents per bu. The acre value was \$11.25.

During the 25 years—1892 to 1916—the average yield in Kansas winter wheat was 12.61 bu. The average price per bushel was 72.8 cents, and the acre value was \$9.18.

The western half of Kansas has been developed and wheat, at these low prices, has paid the bills. Has wheat raising paid the Kansas farmer? Will it continue to pay?—J. E. Payne, Agriculturist of Frisco R. R., Parsons, Kan.

## ST. PATRICK'S PARTY

Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Judd were the delightful hosts with a St. Patrick's party Monday evening in honor of the young ladies and young men's classes of the Baptist church, at their home on Fourth street.

The rooms were prettily decorated with the colors of St. Patrick's Day—queer snakes, frogs and other mementos being placed about. The table in the dining room was graced with a lovely bouquet of pink sweet peas and ferns, while in the living room a large bunch of green carnations were placed on the library table.

The evening was delightfully spent with music, also games—some so old and fun-making that they were new. Forty young people were present to enjoy the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Judd.

Refreshments of ice cream and cake were served.

## CLEAN UP

The following letter might have been written by any of the hundreds of strangers who pass into and thru this town every thirty days:

Springfield, Mo., March 10, 1919.

Dear Kaltenbach:—I promised to write you after I got back home and give you an idea of what I saw in your town. As you asked this from the standpoint of a stranger I shall not spare your feelings in endeavoring to say just what I gathered in my first trip thru that place.

After getting off the west bound Frisco train I took a "taxi" up town and by holding on succeeded in riding the thing to a very mediocre hotel. The shell holes in France have nothing on the holes in your roads; you seem to have no streets, at least I didn't see any while there. I also hired a taxi to take me to the south part of town, down what I think you fellows call Military avenue. I was glad to discharge my driver at the other end and walk back, as my feelings had been so badly hurt I couldn't stand the jolts any further, and since getting home have been using liniment on the affected spots to remove the soreness.

I noticed in walking that you do not afford street crossings; you have some good side walks but for some reason seem to leave out the cross-overs. In southeast Missouri where they make no pretense of doing things, we don't mind that, but out in Kansas the lack of walks doesn't argue much for a town that is trying to become a city.

Your city seems to be well watered; there was lots of it along this same avenue and the driver didn't seem to mind slushing part of it over his customers as he went into low and plowed through it.

You have no city parking along your roads; you do have some splendid trees and I noted also that blue grass grew well where it had a chance to do so. I also noted that you believe in keeping a good supply of tin cans. By the way some of the homes had piled them in the front yard I took it there was a premium on them and that probably your mayor had offered a reward for the biggest pile in town. I am sure if all the tin cans and old rubbish such as rubber and iron that enters into a Ford could be revamped and sold to Mr. Ford, he would have enough material to keep his big plant running thru the next six or eight months. However, you may have some reason for keeping them so I won't suggest any plan to get rid of them.

I notice also that where you have recently built walks or put in sewer lines that the excess dirt and rocks have been allowed to pile up and "waste their sweetness on the desert air."

Your assortment of old mowing machines, well drills and worn out machinery laying promiscuously over the landscape would do justice to most any town in Arkansas which doesn't even boast a railroad.

You seem to have a number of lot hogs by the great areas of waste space scattered over town. If I was a tax payer there I would appeal to the city fathers to put a double tax on such lots and lighten the tax on the honest-to-goodness fellows who build homes and improve their lots otherwise.

What you fellows over there need is pride—p-r-i-d-e—that's something that makes a fellow wash his ears every day and comb his hair and clean up his back yard and go to church on Sunday and live according to progressive ideas and love his wife. If you fellows will rally round the few men who are giving their time and spending real money to make that a city, I have no doubt you can do it.

I am going to be there again in a few days and will see if the old can and ash piles are still there. If any signs of improvement I may decide to buy a home there, otherwise I am going to buy in Miami or Joplin.

Respectfully, Henry Mulholland.

## ST. PATRICK'S PARTY

In accordance with an old custom at this place the men of the Builders' Class of the Methodist church entertained the ladies at a St. Patrick's party Mon. night. The church lower auditorium was decorated in appropriate colors and about fifty members and guests were present.

The spread consisted of three ply, double-barreled man's feed, nothing dainty about it; just about like what a good Irishman calls for three times a day. After the banquet was over Mr. Bert Shields, as Toastmaster, called on several of the men and women for talks. There were two charter members of the Builders' Class present, Mr. Harmon and Mrs. Wyatt. Mr. Twente, former teacher of the class, spoke at some length on the needs of what we must do to make our part of the work in this city a success.

A general good time was had by all and left, hoping as Banker Richardson said, "for many more feeds like this."

(First publication in the Baxter News, a weekly paper, March 21, 1919)

## PUBLICATION SUMMONS

State of Kansas,  
ss.  
Cherokee County,  
In the Justice Court Before J. M. English, a Justice of the Peace for the City of Baxter Springs, Cherokee County, Kansas, Spring Valley Township.  
L. M. Heavins ..... Plaintiff.  
vs.  
L. V. Keeton ..... Defendant.

The state of Kansas to the defendant will take notice that L. M. Heavins as plaintiff has filed before the above named Justice of the Peace, his bill of particulars against said defendant and that the above named, J. M. English, Justice of the Peace, has issued a garnishee order herein for the sum of \$75.00 and said garnishee order was served upon one John Plyer, and that the said case is set for hearing upon the 22nd day of April, 1919, at 9 a. m.; and that the said defendant must appear or answer in said cause on or before said 22nd day of April, 1919, or the said bill of particulars will be taken as true and judgment rendered against said defendant for the said sum of \$75.00 and costs of said action and for an order of the garnishee to pay to the hands of the court money belonging to said defendant.

J. M. ENGLISH,  
Justice of the Peace.

## GREAT METHODIST MOVEMENT

The most important annual meeting ever held by the Kansas Methodist conference closed Sunday after a week of intensive planning for the greatest movement in the history of the church. Every minister will go home imbued with the importance of doing his share in the centenary movement, from the time the big drive starts in April to raise the necessary money for carrying out the reconstruction program, and continuing for five years, or until every part of that program is carried out in full.

Practically every Topeka congregation heard something about the big centenary movement. Visiting ministers filled the pulpits in most of the churches, and a part of their sermons were dedicated to this cause, which is unusually far-reaching. The program outlined by the last general conference includes a comprehensive program of foreign and home missionary work, for which \$85,000,000 will be raised in April. Every minister and layman of the church is expected to get into the harness and help put this intensive campaign for funds over the top, in the shortest possible time. Bishop A. W. Leonard, presiding officer of the Kansas conference, declares that the raising of the money is but a small part of the real intent of the general conference. After the money is pledged, the whole five years must be given to the work of reconstruction and of church extension by every member and minister.

## TRIES SUICIDE

A suicidal attempt was made Monday morning, about seven o'clock, by old man Layton, an inmate of the County Home, when he seized a razor and severed his left jugular vein, besides inflicting other cuts on his breast and abdomen.

Supt. Fisher telephoned to Dr. J. Dale Graham, county physician, who made a hurry run to the farm and saved the would-be suicide from bleeding to death, although the victim was pretty far gone from loss of blood.

Layton is a man about 70 years of age, and has been at the County Farm only a few weeks. He was despondent, and believed to be demented. He admits that this is not the first time he has tried to kill himself. He has frequently been found wandering around by himself, and muttering strangely.

## PUT IT IN YOUR HAT

When some chaps are setting around assuming to tell every one what they know as to what numbers constitute certain divisions of our army, remove your hat and then read the following to him:

An army corps is 60,000 men.  
An infantry division is 19,000 men.  
An infantry brigade is 7,000 men.  
A regiment of infantry is 3,000 men.  
A battalion is 1,000 men.  
A company is 250 men.  
A platoon is 60 men.  
A corporal's squad is 11 men.  
A field battery has 195 men.  
A firing squad is 20 men.  
A supply train has 283 men.  
A machine gun battalion has 296 men.

An engineer's regiment has 1,098 men.

An ambulance company has 66 men.  
A field hospital has 55 men.  
A medicine attachment has 13 men.  
A major general heads the field army and also each army corps.  
A brigadier general heads each infantry brigade.

A colonel heads each regiment.  
A lieutenant colonel is next in rank below a colonel.

A major heads a battalion.  
A captain heads a company.

A lieutenant heads a platoon.  
A sergeant is next below a lieutenant.

A corporal is a good officer.

# MISSOURI, KANSAS AND OKLAHOMA

## In Grip of a Bad Storm—Much Damage Done—Baxter Visited by Small Twists

Flood Situation in Topeka  
Flood waters from Shunganunga creek cover large portion of East side. Families are being moved out of inundated territory in row boats. Sections of North Topeka covered several feet deep with surface water. Soldier creek threatening to overflow its banks.

Rainfall in Topeka Saturday and Sunday night totaled 5.13 inches. Hundreds of families driven into upper stories of their homes.

Bridges across Shunganunga creek threaten to go out.

A foot bridge across Soldier creek was washed out.

Street cars and automobiles are stranded in all parts of the city.

Saturday evening just before a heavy downpour of rain, a small twister appeared at the Frisco depot, picked up a truck loaded with express and after promiscuously scattering the express over the platform and track and turning the truck over, glided off as suddenly as it had appeared. The storm was fire for an hour and contained some bad looking clouds.

The first reports of the raging storm came from northeastern Kansas and the last from Wichita which was hit by the tail of the cyclone about 6 o'clock. In the meantime it had passed through Oklahoma, where the greatest damage was probably done, resulting in one man killed at Porter and almost total destruction of the town.

The storm reached its climax in this vicinity at about 4:30 o'clock. Points which it touched lightly in its fury included Carl Junction, Smithfield, Crestline, Springtown and Webb City.

Moscotah and Circleville were the towns marked by the storm in its passage over Kansas.

Unprecedented rainfall accompanying the tornado throughout Kansas caused many small streams to go out of their banks, resulting in the flooding of Atchison, Topeka, Lindsborg and Abilene. Twenty blocks on the east of Topeka are reported under water. Warning of possible floods throughout the entire Kaw and Smoky Hill River valleys were being sent out by the Topeka weather bureau Saturday night.

## In the Picher Field

Wind, rain and hail combined in a fury of the elements that flooded the Picher mining district, broke out windows, whipped mining derricks to the ground, and passing toward the northeast seemed to gather momentum as it went.

In the vicinity of Carl Junction eight miles north of Joplin the storm seemed to reach the peak of its fury after having wrecked a house and scattered its parts over a pastureland. The funnel-shaped cloud in its mad flight in this locality seemed to follow Spring river, and while many trees were uprooted, telephone and telegraph lines wrecked and small houses overturned, no person was seriously injured. At Carl Junction the cloud raised and disappeared.

The tailing elevator of the Queen Esther mill at Picher was blown down and fell upon the office, wrecking it. Several men were in the office at the time, but nobody was seriously hurt.

The home of A. Botts north of Carl Junction was twisted on its foundation, and his barn was blown several feet away.

Six men saved their lives in a new home owned by Will and Louis Appleman just north of Carl Junction. The house was under course of construction, being almost completed. When the men employed on the building saw the funnel-shaped cloud coming their way they ran to the basement and huddled in one corner. A minute later the storm struck. The house was picked from its foundation and dashed into bits of flying lumber. None of the workmen were hurt.

A barn owned by Glen Smith a mile north of Carl Junction, was twisted on its foundation, and trees near the Smith home were uprooted.

Cliff Bowers a resident of Carl Junction was driving a horse attached to a buggy along a road near Springtown when the storm struck. The whole outfit, including Smith, was picked from the middle of the road and slammed against a fence. The buggy was held by the fence and the horse was knocked from its feet. Later Smith, who was not seriously hurt, lifted the buggy from the fence and urged the horse to his feet and drove on this way.

Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Heap and Mr. Letimer, of Galea, attended the St. Patrick's masquerade ball Monday night.